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MANURE APPLICATORS' CERTIFICATION

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This past spring the Seventy-seventh session of the Iowa General Assembly passed House File 2494 and 9048, which refined laws governing manure management in the State of Iowa. Section 33 requires that commercial manure applicators and confinement site applicators meet specified certification requirements in order to apply manure. At this time both commercial manure applicators and confinement site applicators must meet certification requirements by March 1, 1999.

Commercial Manure Applicators

Commercial manure applicators are defined by Iowa law as “a person who engages in the business of and charges a fee for applying manure on the land of another person.” The law requires that commercial manure applicators must be certified by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources every year. Commercial manure applicators will be required to take a written exam to meet the initial certification requirements, valid for only one year, and may maintain their certification in subsequent years by attending three hours of continuing instructional courses each year.

Confinement Site Manure Applicators

Confinement site manure applicators are defined by Iowa law as “a person who applies manure stored at a confinement site other than a commercial manure applicator.” This definition applies to full-time employees of confinement feeding operations whose primary responsibility is manure application. Confinement feeding operations are defined as “animal feeding operation in which animals are confined to areas which are totally roofed” and they must exceed animal weight capacity of 200,000 pounds for animals other than bovine, or 400,000 pounds for bovine.

The law requires that confinement site manure applicators must be certified by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources every year. Confinement site manure applicators will be required to take a written exam to meet the initial certification requirement which is valid for three years, and may maintain their certification in subsequent years by attending two hours of continuing instructional courses each year.

Training

Training materials will emphasize areas such as manure handling, application, rules, nutrient management, safety, and storage of manure. In addition, the law requires that training included the potential effects of manure applications on ground and surface waters and procedures to remediate the potential effects on surface and groundwater.

Iowa State University Extension will be responsible for developing the training materials and providing training workshops. Due to the nature of this program and the limited time-frame in which to provide the training, Extension will be offering Confinement Site Manure Applicator Training in conjunction with Manure Nutrient Management Meetings and the Iowa Pork Producer's Environmental Assurance Program. These combined meetings will be held in January and February of 1999. Please consult with your local County Extension Office for the meetings in your area. Commercial Manure Applicator

Training will be offered at five to seven locations statewide. Attending a training session is optional, but will help applicators prepare to pass the exam.

Study Guides for both groups will be available for a small fee from County Extension Offices or Extension Distribution Center at Iowa State University.

The Department of Natural Resources will be responsible for administering the testing and certification program.